

15W

PTO/SB/21 (02-04)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

## TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number 10/726,767

Filing Date December 3, 2003

First Named Inventor Margaret M. Nixon

Art Unit 3731

Examiner Name

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

46

Attorney Docket Number AQMED.0103

### ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached  | <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition   | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> After Final   | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please Identify below):         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer                              | References A1 through A5  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement         | <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund                               | Postcard Acknowledgement  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)              | <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____                        |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application    | <input type="checkbox"/> Remarks _____                                    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | Postcard Acknowledgement  |   |

### SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name David W. Carstens

Signature

Date

August 2, 2004

### CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

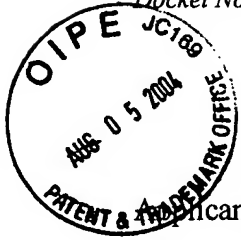
Typed or printed name Kathleen A. Tolnay

Signature

Date August 2, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Margaret M. Nixon  
Serial No.: 10/726,767  
Filing Date: December 3, 2003  
Title: Surgical Tape Tensioner  
Art Unit: 3731  
Attorney Docket No.: AQMED.0103

---

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

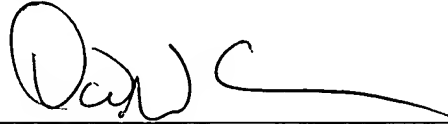
Applicant requests that the information listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A be considered by the Office during the pendency of the above entitled application, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.97.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not constitute an admission that any information cited therein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(b). In the interest of full and complete disclosure to the Office, some or all of the art cited herein may not be considered by Applicant(s) or the Undersigned to be material under the new standards of materiality defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(b), enacted March 16, 1992, but may be material under the old standard of materiality defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.56(a), last amended on November 28, 1988, or may merely be technical background which may be of interest to the Examiner. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) within three months of the filing date of the application, or before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits. No fee or certification is required.

Date: July 30, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Carstens', written over a horizontal line.

David W. Carstens  
Reg. No. 34,134

CARSTENS YEE & CAHOON, L.L.P.  
P.O. Box 802334  
Dallas, TX 75380  
Telephone: (972) 367-2001  
Fax: (972) 367-2002  
Attorney for Applicant

PTO/SB/08A (08-03)  
Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

*(Use as many sheets as necessary)*

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/726,767
Filing Date	December 3, 2003
First Named Inventor	Margaret M. Nixon
Art Unit	3731
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	AQMED.0103

Sheet	1	of	1
-------	---	----	---

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
-----------------------	--	--------------------	--

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

**If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.**